

# **POLICY BULLETIN**

## **CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

**NSLP 04-06**

**February 7, 2006**

**SUBJECT: School Meals Initiative (SMI) Q&A Resource**

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Attached is a copy of SMI Frequently Asked Questions. This document is additional guidance for SFAs to use in implementing SMI requirements. The questions represent common areas of SMI in which participants wanted additional clarification.

We are highlighting some information below from problem areas seen during recent reviews in our state. If the nutrient analysis is not accurate and/or you are not meeting the required nutrition standards, your meals are not reimbursable and you should not submit a claim for reimbursement.

For NSMP/ANSMP it is important to enter the nutrient data for any nutrient defined in the nutrition standards for school meals--calories, protein, carbohydrate, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, iron, dietary fiber, cholesterol, sodium, fat, and saturated fat. If the Nutrition Facts Label or the manufacturer's nutrient data statement indicates there is an insignificant amount of a nutrient, enter zero "0" for the nutrient value. Do not enter zero "0:" for missing nutrient information. The SFA/State agency must obtain data for any nutrient identified in the nutrition standards. A nutrient analysis with missing data is unacceptable: (See Q&A #43, Page 39.)

Under the NSMPI/ANSMP approaches, menus must have been correctly analyzed and planned using USDA-approved nutrient analysis software. The menus must meet the nutrition standards, and meals must contain, at a minimum, the required meal structures. Without determining if the nutrient analysis was conducted correctly, the reviewer cannot determine what constitutes a reimbursable meal, that is, what menu items are required to be offered on the day of the review and how many menu items must be taken for a meal to be reimbursable. (See Q&A #7, Page 54.)

For CRE reviews, there are specific criteria for fiscal action. If meals are not reimbursable, they are disallowed. With SMI, fiscal action can result when SFAs are not working in good faith to plan and serve meals that meet the SMI nutrition requirements. (See Q&A #7, Page 55.)

(SP 06-10)